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Security Council

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General Assembly
Sixtieth session
Agenda items 14 and 108

The situation in the Middle East

Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Security Council
Sixty-first year

Identical letters dated 14 July 2006 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Upon instruction from my Government and with reference to the letter, dated 12 July 2006, addressed to you by the Israeli representative and the sessions of the Security Council of 13 and 14 July 2006, while categorically rejecting his baseless and self-serving accusations against my country, I have the honor to state the following:

- It is ironic that the representative of a regime whose invading army began its new round of unbridled atrocities about two weeks ago against a defenseless people in the Gaza Strip, under the pretext of freeing a captive, is now accusing my country of opening another chapter in "war of terror". Ever since its assault on Gaza, the said army, equipped to teeth with the state-of-the-art weaponry, cowardly kept attacking civilians and civilian infrastructures, disrupting power and water supplies, destroying roads and bridges, battering cities and villages, depriving the civilians from basic necessities, and, thus, displaying the worst case of State terrorism.
- The same army, under the same pretext, has now begun unleashing similar atrocities against another people. It is actually carrying out the threat of its Chief of Staff, who cruelly threatened that "nothing is safe" in Lebanon and "the clock will be turned back twenty years for Lebanese people." Bombarding more than 20 Lebanese cities and villages, the imposition of an air and sea blockade on the country, which defies any justification, destruction of civilian infrastructures and raising the specter of new regional war could only be carried out by a regime that considered itself above every international standard law.

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- The Zionist regime has stubbornly refused to admit that it bears the sole responsibility for the crimes that it has perpetrated resulting from its act of occupation of other peoples' territories, and that it should abandon looking for excuses and scapegoats. History bears testimony to the inescapable fact that no occupiers have ever been able to bludgeon peoples under occupation into submission. There should be no doubt that the Palestinian people are no exception to this rule. Therefore, the occupiers should learn from history and stop making their hands bloodier by shattering more innocent lives.

- It is ironic too that the representative of a regime, which has illegally and clandestinely acquired hundreds of nuclear bombs and their means of delivery and is the only WMD proliferator in the whole region, dares to accuse baselessly my country of the wrongdoing that several decades ago was done by his own regime. It is undisputable that nuclear arms in the hands of a regime that blatantly disregards any limit or proportionality in its aggressive acts, as demonstrated in the course of its history, is a brazen threat to peace and security in the volatile region of Middle East. This is a threat that needs to be urgently and decisively addressed by the international community.
- The Zionist regime has so far flouted the will of the international community, incorporated in numerous UN resolutions. As the new waves of aggressions by this regime seriously threaten international peace and security, the Security Council has an enormous responsibility under the UN Charter to take necessary and prompt steps with a view to putting an end to its aggressions. It is very unfortunate that once more the Security Council became paralyzed by the American use of veto, exercised on 13 July 2006, against the will and expectation of the international community. This veto demonstrates the real axis that has been at work in our region, aiming at precluding a lasting and just peace.

I should be grateful, if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda items 14 and 108 and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) M. Javad **Zarif**

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Agenda item 14
The situation in the Middle East

Security Council
Sixty-first year

Identical letters dated 19 July 2006 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to forward to you the address of Fuad Siniora, Prime Minister of Lebanon, to the Diplomatic Corps that was delivered on 19 July 2006, in Beirut, to launch an urgent appeal to the international community for an immediate ceasefire and for humanitarian assistance for Lebanon (see annex).

I kindly request that the present letter and its annex be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 14, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Caroline **Ziade**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

06-43551 (E) 190706

Annex to the identical letters dated 19 July 2006 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Address to the Diplomatic Corps
by the Prime Minister
H.E. Mr. Fuad Siniora
Grand Serail, Beirut, 19 July 2006

I have convened the diplomatic corps in Lebanon today to launch an urgent appeal to the international community for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire and assistance to my war ravaged country. You are all aware that seven continuous days of an escalating Israeli onslaught on Lebanon have resulted in immeasurable loss: the toll in terms of human life has reached tragic proportions: over 1,000 injured and 300 killed so far; over half a million people have been displaced; in some areas, the hospitals have been crippled and are unable to cope with the casualties; there are shortages of food and medical supplies; homes, factories and warehouses have been completely destroyed; UN facilities in Maroun El Ras and Naqoura have just been shelled, so have been army barracks and posts of Joint Security Forces; a civil defense unit has been wiped out and foreigners are being evacuated. As I speak, the trauma, the desperation, the grief and the daily massacres and destruction go on and on. The country has been torn to shreds.

Is the value of human life in Lebanon less than that of the citizens of other countries?

Can the international community stand by while such callous retribution by the State of Israel is inflicted on us?

Will you allow innocent civilians, churches, mosques, orphanages, medical supplies escorted by the Red Cross, people seeking shelter or fleeing their homes and villages to be the casualties of this ugly war?

Is this what the international community calls self defense? Is this the price we pay for aspiring to build our democratic institutions? Is this the message to send to the country of diversity, freedom and tolerance?

Only last year, the Lebanese filled the streets with hope and with red, green and white banners shouting out: Lebanon deserves life!

What kind of life is being offered to us now?

I will tell you what kind: a life of destruction, despair, displacement, dispossession, and death.

What kind of future can stem from the rubble?

A future of fear, frustration, financial ruin, and fanaticism.

Let me assure you that we shall spare no avenue to make Israel compensate the Lebanese people for the barbaric destruction it has inflicted and continues to inflict upon us, knowing full well that human life is irreplaceable.

You want to support the government of Lebanon? Let me tell you, ladies and gentlemen, no government can survive on the ruins of a nation.

On behalf of the people of Lebanon, from Beirut, Baalbeck, and Byblos, to Tyre Sidon and Qana, to each and every one of the 21 villages at the southern border, declared a no-go zone by Israel, to Tripoli and Zahle, I call upon you all to respond immediately without reservation or hesitation to this appeal for an immediate cease-fire and lifting the siege, and provide urgent international humanitarian assistance to our war-stricken country. I would also like to thank the international organizations and the friendly countries that have already extended their valued help and thank as well those who are preparing to do so.

Excellencies

We the Lebanese want life.

We have chosen life.

We refuse to die.

Our choice is clear.

We have survived wars and destruction over the ages.

We shall do so again.

I hope you will not let us down.

United Nations A/60/949

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Sixtieth session
Agenda items 14 and 15

The situation in the Middle East

Question of Palestine

Letter dated 18 July 2006 from the Permanent Representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit the attached press release from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela on the terrible situation which currently exists in the Middle East, rejecting and condemning the disproportionate attacks which Israel has unleashed over the past several days against the Palestinian and Lebanese people and infrastructure.

I should be grateful if this letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda items 14, Situation in the Middle East, and 15, Question of Palestine.

(*Signed*) Francisco Javier **Arias Cardenas**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 18 July 2006 from the Permanent Representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela addressed to the Secretary-General

Press Release

Venezuela condemns Israel's attacks against Palestinian and Lebanese people

The Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela rejects and condemns the disproportionate attacks that the State of Israel has unleashed for the past several days against both the Palestinian and Lebanese people and their infrastructure. The indiscriminate use of force has already resulted in many civilians killed and wounded, including innocent children and women.

There is no pretext that could justify such acts of aggression. The fact that the Palestinians have decided to vote for one of the choices presented during the last elections, which irritated Israel, is no reason for the harassment which has been unleashed, and has worsened into the present conflict.

Even less explicable is the destruction of major infrastructure in Lebanon, as well as the blockade to which it is being subjected, establishing a dangerous precedent in international affairs. Likewise, the harassment of Syria from the air puts the stability of the entire region at increasing risk, with the danger of more bloodshed and worse punishment for its inhabitants.

The veto by the Government of the United States of America to prevent consideration of this crisis in the United Nations Security Council is unacceptable. Its hegemony over this body severely undermines it as a forum for the peaceful settlement of conflicts. Therefore, our country continues its strong support for its democratization and is working to gain a seat on the Security Council.

Finally, the Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, in solidarity with the countries suffering aggression and with its innocent victims, calls on the peoples and Governments of the world to put an end to this conflict and to endeavour to seek the path of negotiation that will lead in the end to the establishment of a Palestinian State, which is the inalienable right of the people who have peacefully occupied this land for centuries.